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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
AND ENVIRONMENT

www.kdheks.gov

Division of Health



Kansas Child Care in the 21st Century Listening Tour

Location: Wichita, Kansas
Date: October 17, 2007
Participants: Approximately 85 persons participated



Participant Process

The Department of Health and Environment is in the process of redesigning the child care licensing system to meet the needs of children and families in the 21st century. The process began in October 2007 with a state-wide listening tour to solicit comments on day care homes, child care centers and private preschools registered or licensed by the Department. The comments will be considered in the development of policies, procedures and standards of care that provide safety for children, encourage early learning, and balance best practices and the business realities that face child care providers every day. The participants were asked to respond to the question identified below. All the comments were recorded. The participants were then asked to vote on their most pressing concerns. Each person had a maximum of six votes. The question asked in the tour, the comments and the number of votes are listed below.



Listening Tour Question



If Kansas is to have a quality 21st Century Child Care system, what improvements or changes are needed in regulations and in the licensing process? (Please think both about content as well as process. Include the inspection process, sanction process, licensing policies and regulations.)

Number of Votes and Comments Received

Votes	 Comments 
29	Eliminate registered day care and only have licensed day care.
29	Background checks – digital and faster and include surrounding states. Only get a response if not allowed. Need a response “yeah” or “nay.”
26	Should have something in the regulations regarding overlap. (i.e. when the child does not get picked up right on time.)
22	Number of children in our in home day care...up from 10 to 12 or 14.
21	We need faster processing of amendments. (We need 30 days if we are already a licensed facility providing good care) i.e. Faster process for amendments to an already licensed facility. (Especially when we just want to change the age of the group of children we are caring for in that class.)
19	Require 45 hours of pre-service (clock hour training) before getting a license if you don't have a degree (this is one recommendation from NACCRRA). Could consider working with KDHE to develop what this training would need to include. (Other professions have these requirements.) From a business standpoint, will have several hundred dollars invested in a person before they start. How do we not just pass this cost on to parents? More training is a good idea but could be a deterrent. Should this be more for centers? Difficult to do 45 hours for those doing in home care. Would be helpful to have a particular list of classes that people should take.
18	Playground regulations – would like to see more detail and needs to be more current.
18	Raise the qualification requirements for teachers.

BUREAU OF CHILD CARE AND HEALTH FACILITIES – CHILD CARE LICENSING AND REGISTRATION PROGRAM
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Votes	 Comments 
14	All regulations need to first consider what will be best for the kids in Kansas.
14	Would like to see ratios reflect requirements closer to NAEYC.
14	Regulations need to be specific to situations like churches, schools, YMCAs – anything with shared space.
14	Would like to see infants in in-home be 12 months rather than 18 months. (Should still not be more than 3 infants.)
13	Would like to see the paperwork revised and simplified. For example, the accidents reports. Used to be a one page paper and now is a two page paper. The immunization record: come up with a way that the state will accept an electronic copy of this.
12	Anonymous complaints that are not matters of abuse can be retribution. Would like something done about this.
12	A way to evaluate the psychological stability of the child care provider before they start.
11	Having the same surveyor helps build the relationship. Perhaps have a partner come with them that would have fresh eyes.
11	More professional development required every year. No videos and books.
11	Surveyor case loads need to be lower to allow for more time for training and consultation with day care providers.
10	Why isn't CPR required for day care?
10	On SRS children, we don't know what families should be paying us (since the enactment of the privacy act.) (A suggestion: ask the parents for a copy of this or place this requirement in your contract with the parents.)
9	Why can't a 5 year old be a five year old? Depends now on a date certain. Consider an age rather than "kindergarten"
9	When surveyors go to regional meetings and get new law or regulation, please let us know before coming out to inspect. (Who does the team confer with when drafting new regulations?)
9	See some consistency between agencies i.e. state fire marshal, KDHE, CACFP
8	Enforcement of regulations needs to be consistent between counties. Different surveyors look at different things.
8	Would like to see locals have the ability to OK in-service for staff.
8	Training – need more affordable high quality training. Needs to allow for on-line classes. Need consistency from KDHE on training.
8	As much clarification as possible in the regulations so miscommunication is kept to a minimum.
7	Surveyors when they come to your house...they find new things. Need to have a checklist so they look at the same things each time rather than new things.
7	KAR 28-4-429. Staff qualifications. Could we find a way to clarify or simplify?
5	Would like more money to go to child care licensing so they can use their expertise to educate.
5	After the initial visit, it should not be allowed for surveyor to write additional pages without having your signature.
5	Smoking: How can they be watching the kids if smoking in the garage? Should not allow smoking at all when the children are being watched.
5	See in home day cares be able to have group homes inside the city of Wichita.
4	Substitute networking between centers for employees would be nice. (Substitute agencies...surveyor cited the center for using a substitute agency person. Why are substitute care agencies not also surveyed or held to the regulations?) Right now, it is up to the child care centers to apply for their KBI...need more regulations of the substitute agencies so they are doing the KBI. Substitute should bring a file with them. More clarity and consistency.
4	Learning experiences: inclusion of conflict resolution skills.
4	Outside Area: Inclusion of helmets worn by children on riding toys of any kind.
4	KBI checks: Include checks on the parents since they also come into the home.
3	Would like to see local representatives have more autonomy in letting us know the history or background of a perspective employee.
3	One measuring stick...association membership, KS quality rating system-the standard keeps changing.
3	Qualifications that are required of surveyors. What is required? Let this be part of the regulations.
3	I would like to get rid of tooth brushing because of the germs that get spread.
3	Facilities license for not less than 13, qualifications should not be any different than those that work with 24.
3	When the surveyor comes back to check your corrections, are they just supposed to check the corrections or the whole place again? (need clarity on this)
3	Sedgwick County has an open door policy – need clarification on what this means. Does it mean an open, unlocked door?

Votes	 Comments 
2	See a more detailed description on how to brush teeth possible and how to keep this as sanitary as possible.
2	Would like to see the regulations in multiple languages and have a surveyor that is bilingual.
2	Neighbor complained that day care provider poisoned her dogs. Surveyor talked to neighbor first rather than to provider.
2	Need standards for physical plant: wash cloths laundered weekly? Why not daily?
2	Health practices: Inclusion of a sink/toilet in each unit.
1	If we could have surveyors rotated, they would have fresh eyes coming into our programs to evaluate us.
1	Would like to see if KDHE can provide us when qualifying a director, is there some way to know what classes qualify for the 12 hours?
1	If we have to take classes for home day care, can the health department pay us to take classes? (Could they use the fines they collect to pay for training...reinvest it)
1	If part of my home is being used as my day care center and part is not, why does the surveyor need to inspect the entire home?
1	Would like to see state give the local as much authority at the local level as they have at the state level. The state cannot do it all.
1	We don't have to have a fire inspection when we turn in our renewals. Why? Should we also have emergency management come out?
1	Napping/sleeping: Costs/mats sanitized weekly when sheets are removed and wash. The sheets and blankets both on a weekly basis.
0	About getting accredited (the Child Development Associate Credential), would be helpful to have something available that wasn't just Monday thru Thursday. Need to provide more flexibility in schedules.
0	Criminal background checks – specify who needs these...does it need to be the bug man? The music teacher?
0	On the group care, would like to see if the person working with you could take a break. Do I need to hire someone during this time?
0	Immunization records: seems we are checked twice on this. Once by the surveyor and once during our renewal process.